

**CITY OF BALTIMORE**  
**MAYOR STEPHANIE RAWLINGS-BLAKE**



**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., R.S.  
Interim Commissioner  
1001 E. Fayette Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

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Dear Baltimore Senior,

This year, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and the Baltimore City Health Department are working to improve services for seniors in Baltimore City. The changes do not impact the services currently provided. The changes will make the delivery of services to you more effective and efficient.

The most prominent change is moving the Commission on Aging and Retirement Education (CARE) into the Baltimore City Health Department. By doing so, the City will generate significant cost savings from reduced administrative expenses. By moving CARE into the Health Department, Baltimore City is following an effective model used by our neighboring jurisdictions.

This decision reflects Mayor Rawlings-Blake's strong desire to improve and enhance services offered to Baltimore City's elderly residents. The Health Department has a long, proud history of caring for the City's seniors. We currently provide a variety of services for the elderly, including comprehensive evaluations for seniors, personal care, medical transports, and job and volunteer placement. This move will enable closer collaboration and opportunities to seek new grant funding for more services.

I want to assure you that while CARE will operate under a new Department, **you will continue to receive the same services at the same facilities from the same individuals you know and trust.** In fact, seniors will benefit from the enhanced, "one-stop shop" services offered by Baltimore HealthCare Access, a nonprofit, quasi public agency. For many seniors, the complicated process of arranging services through multiple City agencies will be simplified. For example, grandparents caring for grandchildren in their home can access services for themselves and their dependents by calling one phone number.

Just as CARE has contracted with various nonprofits to provide certain services (for example, Meals on Wheels), the Health Department will contract with Baltimore HealthCare Access to provide some services to individuals. This transition is set to take effect July 1, 2010.

Your support for this effort to enhance services to seniors is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Baltimore HealthCare Access at 410-649-0521 or the Health Department at 410-396-4398. We look forward to working with you in the months and years to come.

Thank you.

Olivia D. Farrow, Esq., R.S.